

Three Fun Quizzes!  Brand-New Aggie Comic

American Girl

January/February 2019

Be the
best
BABYSITTER!

YOUR MOST
**Embarrassing
Moments**

ON POINT
**Make
Pretty
Pins**

**YUM!
Pies on
a Stick**



ADVERTISEMENT



Who
will
be?

GIRL OF
THE YEAR™
2019
★

BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO DISCOVER
OUR GIRL OF THE YEAR™ 2019!

Starting on January 1, join us at the store nearest you for a celebration
of her debut with crafts, giveaways,* and a look at her entire world.

Visit americangirl.com starting on January 1
to see her whole world.

*While supplies last.

Contents

Follow Your Inner Star™

Volume 27, Number 1

Page

14



make these
adorable pins!



Page

26



Page

18



2 The Buzz

3 Girls Express

8 Contest

10 Speak Up

12 According to Aggie

14 Super Sitter Kits

18 Pie Pops

20 A Ray of Hope

24 Feeling Frosty?

26 Pin Palooza

30 Casting Call

32 The Truth Club

40 This or That

41 Who's That Girl?

43 Posters

45 Help

48 Behind the Scenes

Plus
AG's Winter Stickers



January/February 2019

1

American Girl

Editorial Director
JODI GOLDBERG

Executive Editor
BARBARA E. STRETCHBERRY

Lifestyle Editor
ANDREA DEBBINK

Associate Editors
KAITLYN BOSS, CHRISSEY STEPHENSON

Contributing Writer
KITSON JAZYNK

Manager of Creative
WENDY WALSH

Art Directors

GRETCHEN BECKER, JESSICA ROGERS

Editorial Coordinator
JOLENE SCHULZ

Senior Production Manager
CYNTHIA STILES

Production Artist
LISA BUNESCU

Marketing Manager
KIMMIE MIESCHER

Special Thanks to

ALEX BELMONTE, CARYL BOYER,
PATTI KELLEY CRISWELL, SUSAN DOPKINS,
MEAGAN EGGERS, JOE HINRICHS, DAVID ROTH,
ANN MARIE YEAP

Cover Credits:

WARDROBE STYLING: JOLENE SCHULZ
HAIR: SHARON GIERSCHE

AMERICAN GIRL® (ISSN 1062-7812, Canadian Sales Agreement Number 40635507) is published bimonthly by American Girl Publishing, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. Copyright © 2019 American Girl. Subscription rates: One year (six issues) \$24.95. Non-U.S. subscriptions \$29 U.S. Funds. Single issues (current or back copies) \$5.99. Prices subject to change. Periodical postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to American Girl, PO Box 5533, Harlan IA 51593-1035.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: 800-234-1278. SUBSCRIBERS: Send change of address information six weeks before moving to American Girl, PO Box 5533, Harlan IA 51593-1035. Send old address label (recent mailing label is best), new address, and new telephone number, or call 800-234-1278. Occasionally, American Girl makes its list of adult and family names available to other reputable companies for their offering of products and services. We make every effort to ensure that girls' names are not included on this list. If you prefer not to receive such mail, please call our customer service department at 800-234-1278 or write to us at 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562.

EDITORIAL OFFICES: American Girl, Editorial Department, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. American Girl Publishing cannot accept liability for loss or damage of photographs or other materials. Unsolicited materials will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All submissions received by American Girl become the sole property of American Girl Publishing and may be used by American Girl Publishing or its parent or affiliated companies without compensation or acknowledgment. Even though instructions have been tested and results from testing were incorporated into this magazine, all recommendations and suggestions are made without any guarantees on the part of American Girl. Because of differing tools, materials, ingredients, conditions, and individual skills, the publisher disclaims liability for any injuries, losses, or other damages that may result from using the information in this magazine. Not all craft materials are tested to the same standards as toy products. American Girl®, Follow Your Inner Star®, Girls Express®, and According to Aggie® are trademarks of American Girl. American Girl trademarks cannot be used without the express written consent of American Girl.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation of American Girl Publication No. 1062-7812. Filing date: 10/01/18. Issue frequency: Bimonthly. No. issues published annually: 6. Annual subscription price: \$24.95. Owner: Mattel. Headquarters: 333 Continental Blvd., El Segundo CA 90245. Editor: Barbara Stretchberry. Periodicals postage paid at Madison WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to American Girl, PO Box 5533, Harlan IA 51593-1035.

A. Total number of copies (Net press run)	320,369	299,786
B. Paid circulation		
1. Paid/requested circ. mail subscriptions stated on Form 3541	226,609	211,662
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS paid distribution	15,174	12,383
4. Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
C. Total paid distribution	241,783	224,045
D. Free distribution		
1. Outside-county stated on Form 3541	2,042	342
2. In-county stated on Form 3541	0	0
3. Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
4. Free distribution outside mail	5,496	4,125
E. Total free distribution	7,538	4,467
F. Total distribution	249,321	228,512
G. Copies not distributed	71,048	71,274
H. Total	320,369	299,786
I. Percent paid	96.98%	98.05%

 **American Girl®**

Printed in the USA on paper containing at least 10% post-consumer waste. Recycle me or pass me on to a friend.

10% post-consumer waste

DEAR FRIENDS,

I'm sad to tell you that this is the last issue of American Girl magazine. For more than 25 years, American Girl magazine has been bringing you stories about girls who made their marks through big and small acts of courage, creativity, and caring. We've published your art, stories, and poems. You've asked us questions about the things going on in your life, and you've given advice to other girls, too. Your passions, hopes, and concerns have shaped every page of this magazine.

American Girl is working on a new way to bring girls together, and you'll hear about that soon. No matter what, we want to give you a way to make the world a better place for everyone. American Girl has always believed that you don't have to be a grown-up to do something meaningful. And we still do.

Keep telling your stories, sharing your art, and asking questions. It's not the paper and ink that made the magazine—it was YOU. These pages may be going away, but strong girls like you will go on forever.

YOUR FRIEND ALWAYS,

Barbara

EXECUTIVE EDITOR



istock.com/mundervisuals



Safety first!

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help.

When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

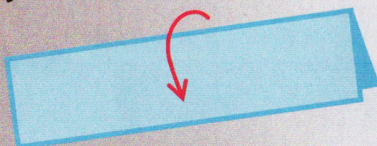
Girls EXPRESS

FOR & BY GIRLS!

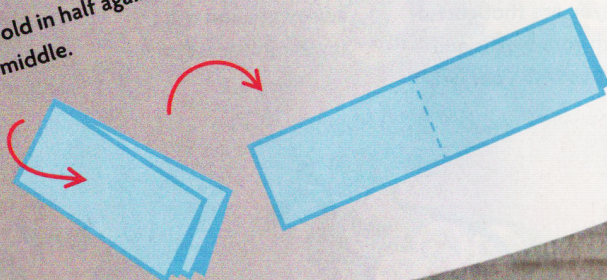
SWEETHEART BOOKMARK

Fold a special bookmark for all
your pal-entines!

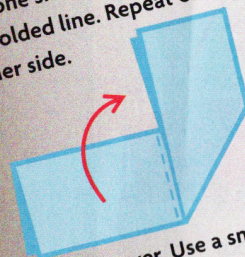
1. Fold a 6-by-3-inch piece of paper in half lengthwise.



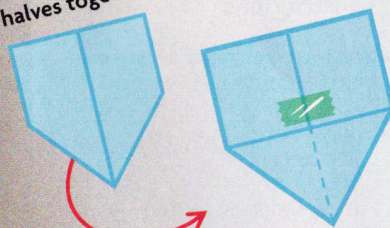
2. Fold in half again; then open up to see the fold in the middle.



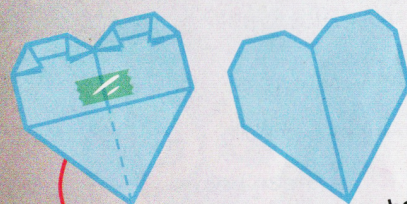
3. Fold up one side of the paper on the folded line. Repeat on the other side.



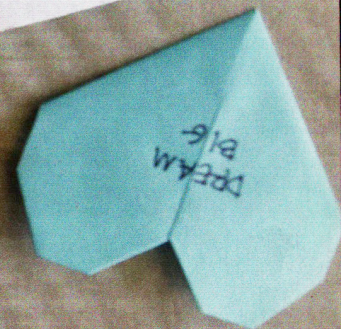
4. Flip the paper over. Use a small piece of tape to hold the two halves together.



5. Fold down the tops and the corners to make a heart shape.



6. Flip the heart over and personalize your bookmark with a marker!



AG POLL



Answer these questions to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

What kind of stationery would you choose?



43% A notepad with your name at the top in fancy writing

23% Colorful, sparkly thank-you cards

20% Sticky notes in every color and size

14% Fun envelopes with animals on them

Which veggie do you like best?

50% Carrots

23% Broccoli

19% Green beans

8% Kale



Which way do you like to travel?

51% By plane

31% By car

10% By train

8% By boat



MINI Quiz

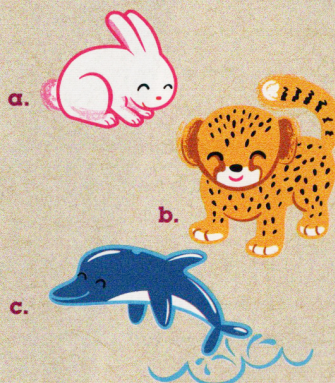
Which winter sport is for you?

1. This Saturday, you'll be ...

- a. reading your favorite book for the third time.
- b. playing soccer with your friends.
- c. hiking in the woods with your family.



2. What animal is the most lovable?



3. Which smell do you like the best?

- a. Evergreen trees
- b. Spiced cider
- c. Cotton candy



4. For dessert, you'd like ...

- a. a giant slice of cheesecake.
- b. a hot-fudge sundae with all the fixings.
- c. two mini cupcakes.



5. Which sweater do you like the best?



Answers

Mostly a's

SNOWSHOEING

As a quiet and meditative girl, you are thoughtful with your words and generous with your heart.

Mostly b's

SNOWBOARDING

You enjoy the thrill of adventure and will try anything at least once!

Mostly c's

ICE SKATING

You are graceful and hardworking, and your positive energy brings out joy in everyone you know!





You can
shine, too!

Think twice before asking
for a plastic straw. By not
using a straw, you can
help reduce plastic
pollution.

Girls
EXPRESS
FOR & BY GIRLS!

After 11-year-old Sophia watched a video about the harm to sea turtles caused by pollution from plastic straws, she got fired up. Her mission? To help clean up plastic pollution in our oceans and inspire other kids to join the battle. "Kids have a voice and can make a big difference," she says.

Last summer, she and her friend Liam attended a camp in New Orleans for young "ocean heroes." Those are kids working to protect the ocean and educate others about the problem of pollution. Before they went, Sophia and

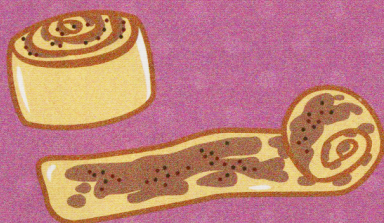
Liam raised money so more kids could attend the camp. They held an eco-dance party and raised about \$5,000. Sophia hopes to raise even more money for next year.

She's also planning a TV show in which she'd travel the world to meet other ocean heroes and spread the word about their work. "We don't want our world to be a world of plastic," she says. "We want it to be a world of green." Her advice for how kids can help? Learn all you can about plastic pollution in the ocean and use less plastic!



We ♥ Cinnamon Rolls

Make a sweet treat with store-bought refrigerated cinnamon rolls.



1. Carefully unwind a roll halfway.



2. Roll the flat end into a spiral to match the rolled end.



3. Bring the two ends together, and pinch the bottom into a point.



4. Repeat for all the rolls.



5.  Place the rolls in a pan and ask an adult to bake according to the instructions on the package.



6. After the rolls have cooled, ice and decorate them with colorful sprinkles.

True Story

Michele received a letter from her superhero!

Dear American Girl,

When my school had a superhero day, I dressed up as Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She's a Supreme Court Justice. As a judge on America's highest court, Justice Ginsburg stands up for the rights of girls and women.

At the time—I was in third grade—I had been learning about how hard women in our country had to fight for the right to vote. I had also read a book about Justice Ginsburg's life. For superhero day, I wore a dress and put on a necklace. I also wore a collar like she wears, put my hair in a bun, and wore a pair of my mom's glasses without the lenses.

The dress and the hair and the glasses really made me feel like Justice Ginsburg. At school, I explained why she is a superhero to me. My mom posted a picture of me in my costume on social media, and Justice Ginsburg saw it. Then, one day, I received a note in the mail. It was from her! Not many kids can say they've gotten a note from a true superhero. Reading it made me feel super-duper-duper happy and proud.

Michele J.
Age 10, Maryland



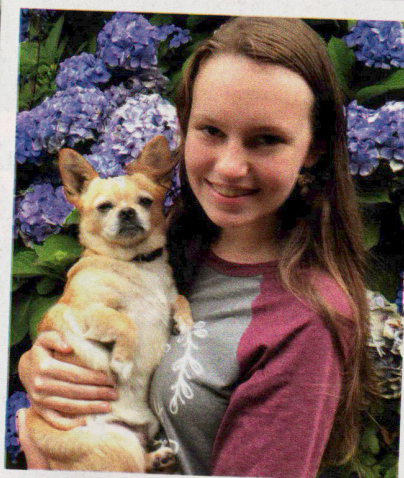
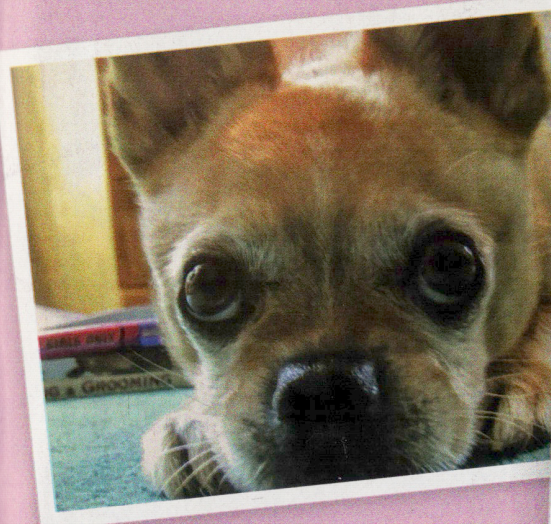
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

December 23, 2016

Dear Michele
You look just like me!
May you continue to thrive
on reading and learning.
Every good wish,
Ruth Bader Ginsburg





Meet a Reader's Pet

Rachel H. loves her rescue dog, Nacho.

Describe the day you got your pet.

Nacho came from an animal shelter in Washington. I was really excited to meet him!

Does your pet know any tricks?

Nacho loves doing tricks! He can roll over, shake, wave, play dead, spin, and sit on his hind legs.



How would you describe your dog in three words?

Cute, loving, smart.

Tell us about your pet's favorite spot in your home:

He loves sitting in front of our wood stove in the winter.

If you could hear what your pet was thinking, what would it be?

Please give me more treats!

How do you show Nacho you love him?

I take him on walks, hug him, and play with him.

Rachel H.

Age 14, Oregon



To find out how your pet can be featured, go to

americangirl.com/playmagazine

AG

ART GALLERY

Show us your animal love!



TARA H.

Age 11, Canada



Ruby H.

Age 10, Virginia



Heatherlyn S.

Age 11, South Carolina

COVER GIRLS

Our shelves are stocked with wonderful books—all created by you! Take a look at some of our featured covers.

Olivia's Adventures in Golf



Olivia F.

Age 9, North Carolina

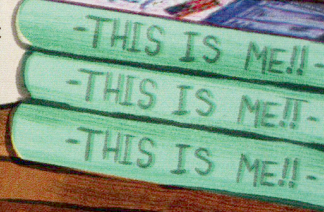


This Is Me



Nelly K.

Age 13,
Pennsylvania
(& Armenia)

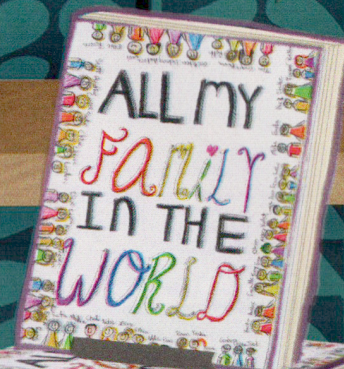
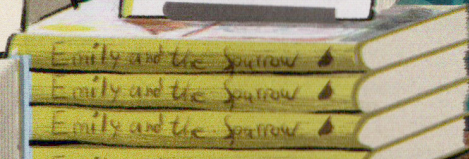


Emily and the Sparrow



Emily G.

Age 13, Virginia



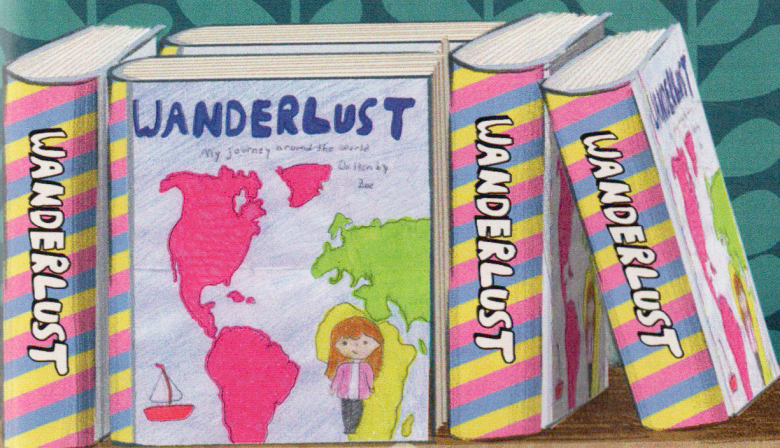
All My Family in the World



Isabelle K.

Age 13, California





Caught Dreaming



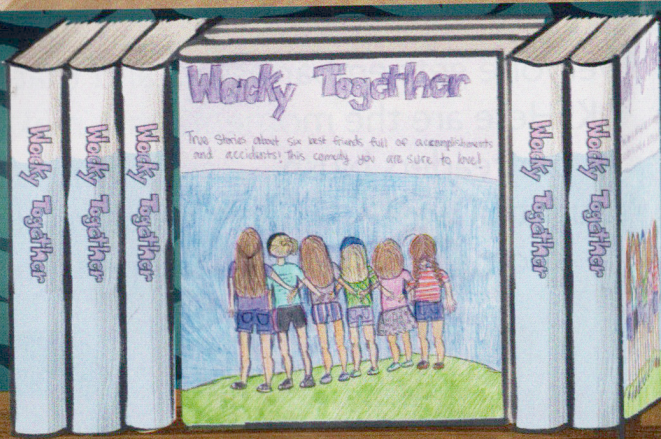
Zoe H.
Age 10, Tennessee



Wanderlust: My Journey Around the World



Zoe P.
Age 12, Colorado



Wacky Together

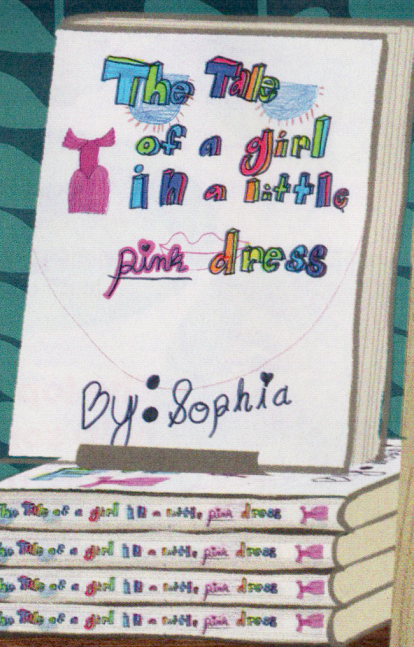


Emerson H.
Age 11, Ohio

The Tale of a Girl in a Little Pink Dress

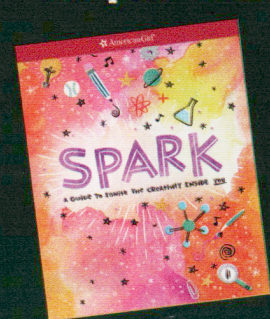


Sophia W.
Age 11, Alabama



REMEMBER:
you all have an important story to tell.

We hope this book—created for you—will help you tell it.



SPARK:
A Guide to Ignite the Creativity Inside You

EMBARRASSING MOMENTS



Everyone gets embarrassed, and that's OK! Here are the moments that make our readers blush . . . and some thoughtful ways to handle embarrassing moments when they happen.



77% of readers said it helps to hear other people's embarrassing stories.

"My dad did the Floss in front of everyone while we were on vacation! I was so embarrassed . . . but it was also kind of funny."



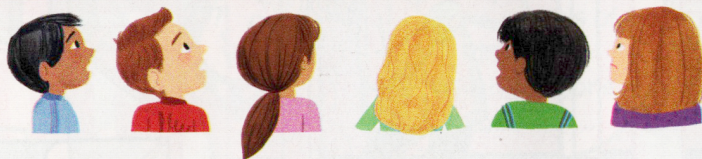
"I forgot half my speech during a speech competition!"

"I threw up in front of everyone at a birthday party because I ate too much cake."

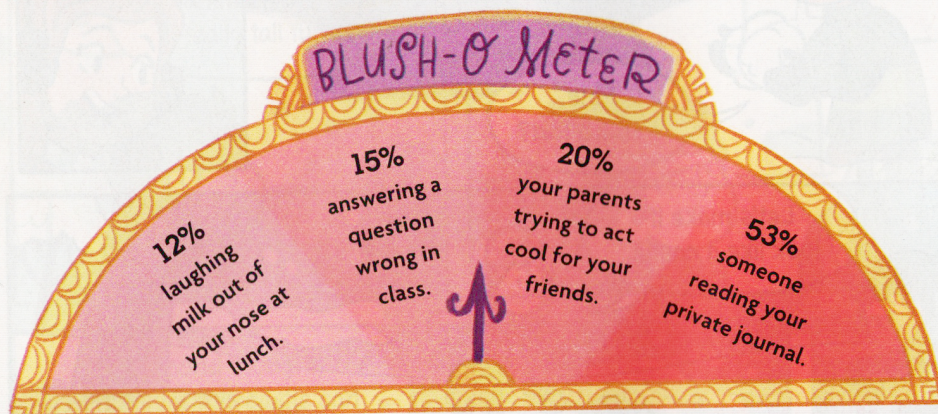


The top 5 ways you try to help someone who is embarrassed:

- * Tell her about a time you were embarrassed so she knows she's not alone.
- * Comfort her by telling her it's OK.
- * Try to make her laugh and feel better.
- * Leave her alone until she is ready to talk about it.
- * Stand up for her, especially if others are laughing or making her feel bad.



You said some of the most embarrassing things are . . .



In moments like these . . .

- * 77% say they'd like to be alone for a little while.
- * 21% say they want to talk it out.
- * 2% say it all depends!

"I accidentally blew a booger on the boy I like when he was showing me his sketchbook."

Girls like you said these 10 things help them the most:

- * Reading
- * Eating ice cream
- * Listening to music
- * Taking deep breaths
- * Laughing it off
- * Taking a walk
- * Riding a bike
- * Going to the park
- * Having a good cry
- * Snuggling with animals—mostly fluffy ones



WE'VE BEEN THERE, TOO!

Here are a few embarrassing stories from our editorial staff.

"I was singing a solo in a competition, and I forgot every single word of the song. I just stood frozen in front of the audience—and the judge—while the music played in the background!" —BES

"During a cross-country race, just as I was doing a last sprint toward the finish line, I fell. Total face-plant into the grass. The worst part was hearing peoples' cheers turn to gasps!" —KB

"When our marching band was learning a new field show, I was trying to be helpful by yelling out the count. Trouble is, I somehow got off beat and was shouting the wrong cadence." —CS

"I was playing frisbee with a cute boy I really liked. I'm terrible at frisbee, and I accidentally hit a man right in the face as he walked by! The man yelled at me, but I couldn't even apologize because when I get really embarrassed, I get the giggles!" —AD

"My friend planned a surprise birthday party for his girlfriend. Before the party, they came to the restaurant where I worked. Since it was her birthday, I asked the staff to come out and sing happy birthday to her. She was pretty confused since, it turned out, her birthday wasn't for another month! I completely ruined the surprise." —GB

According to Aggie™

S'no Fort

Created by
Mary Richards Beaumont, Dan Nordskog
& Genevieve Kote



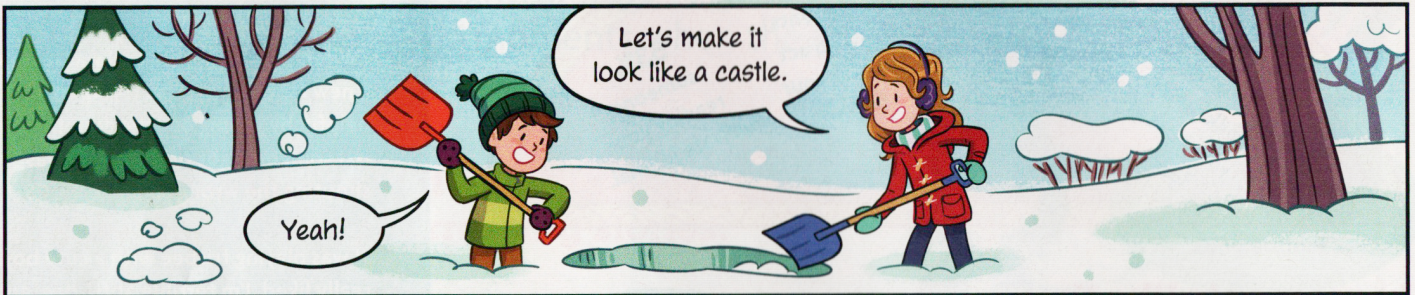
Don't you
DARE.



Fine.
Make a fort?



'Kay!



Let's make it
look like a castle.

Yeah!



What is THAT?

It's the tunnel to
the dungeon.

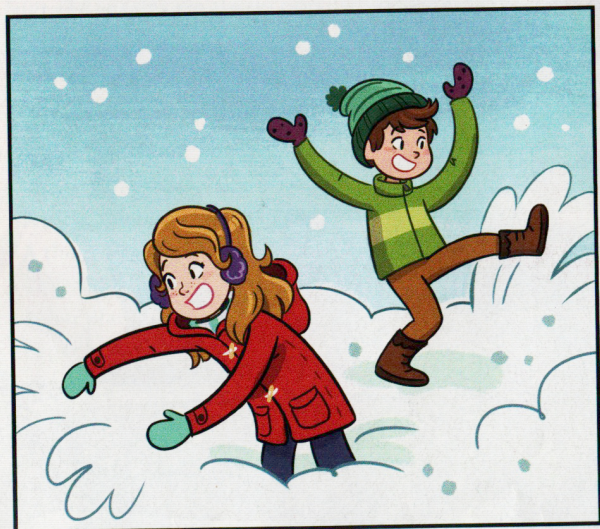
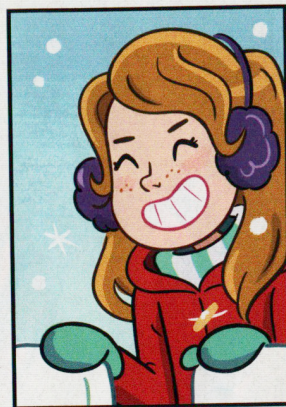
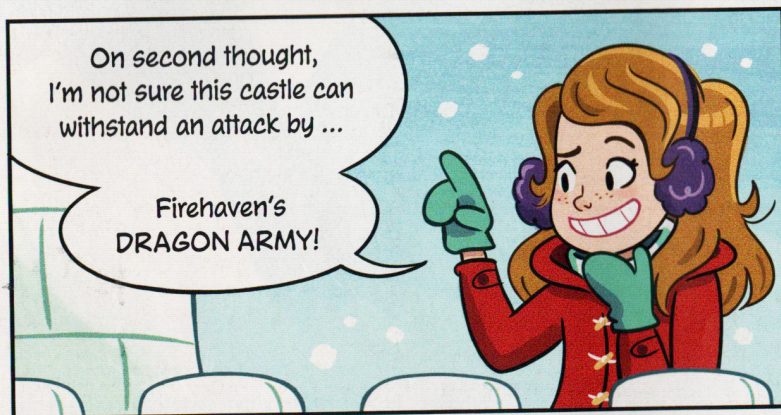


Where they take
the prisoners.

For torturing.



TORRRR-
TURRRING.



Read more about Aggie's adventures in her book, *According to Aggie*.



SUPER SITTER KITS

Step up your babysitting game with these boredom-busting kits.

You're already one of the most reliable babysitters on your block, but the kids you look after might be getting tired of the same activities. They've already showed you all their toys, played all their favorite games, and watched their favorite show over—and over—again. When boredom starts to set in, you can be prepared with one of these DIY babysitting kits to help keep the kiddos entertained and having fun!



My Favorite Things Kit

Think of your favorite toys, crafts, activities, and movies from when you were a kid. It's OK that these items aren't new—they'll be new to the kids you're babysitting, and that's what matters!

You Will Need:

- A large tote bag
- Board games
- Movies
- Books
- Dolls or action figures

Food for thought:

Check with the parents before you make and serve any food. They can tell you if there are any foods that are restricted and whether their child has any allergies.

Indoor Picnic

Bring summertime fun inside with an ant-free picnic in the living room! Fresh fruit and veggies are always popular, and juice or milk from a thermos completes the snack!

You Will Need:

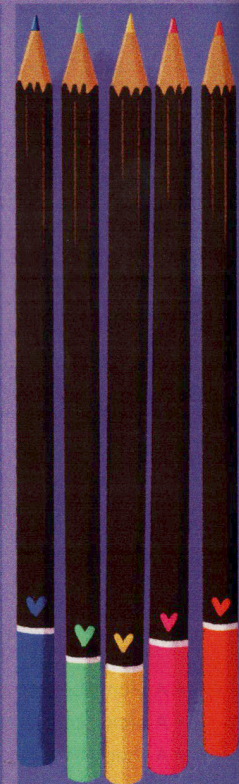
- A picnic basket
- A picnic blanket or checkered tablecloth
- A thermos filled with juice or milk
- Covered cups
- Paper plates
- Paper napkins
- Prepared snacks (cut-up veggies and fruit, cheese slices and crackers, and PB&J sandwiches)

TIP

Use cookie cutters to create fun sandwich cutouts. A plain PB&J is a lot more exciting in the shape of a star or a heart!

Get creative and make something special together! Gather supplies for a simple craft. Creating something new will not only help the time fly by, but the kids will have a fun gift to share with their parents when they return home.

- A craft supply box
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Paper
- Stickers
- Yarn
- Paper cutouts
- Glue stick
- Safety scissors



- Friends and family postcards: Cut colorful card stock into a postcard shape and add artwork to the front.
- Special snowflakes: Glue four craft sticks together in a snowflake shape and decorate with markers and stickers.

Winter Wonderland

Grab this kit and bundle up for some frosty fun in the snow! Bring all the basics for creating a snowman (or snowgirl!) like buttons, a carrot, a scarf, and a hat. Bring along spray bottles of colored water to make beautiful art on nature's biggest canvas! Make sure you and the kids you're watching wear appropriate winter gear—boots, hats, mittens, and coats.

You Will Need:

- A plastic caddy or tote (waterproof is key!)
- 3 or 4 spray bottles filled with water and food coloring
- Snowperson accessories:
 - ♦ Lots of buttons for the eyes and mouth
 - ♦ Carrots for the nose
 - ♦ Hats
 - ♦ Scarves
 - ♦ Twigs for arms

TIP

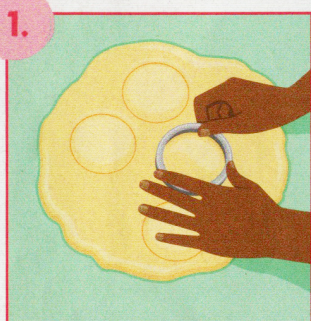
A mug of hot cocoa topped with marshmallows is a great way to warm up after playtime in the snow. Test the temperature of the cocoa before you serve it, and always check with the parents that it's OK to serve the kids this yummy treat. ★

Pie Pops

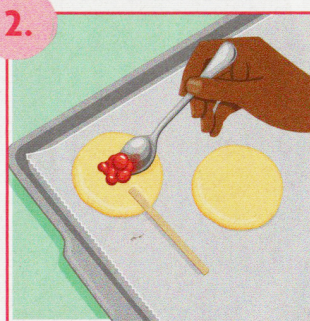
These mini pies are fun to make and easy to share!

YOU WILL NEED

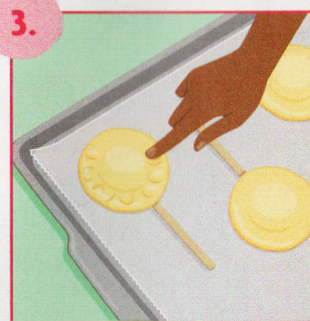
- ☐ 1 refrigerated pie crust (let sit at room temperature for 15 minutes)
- ☐ Filling (see recipe ideas on opposite page)
- ☐ Food-safe sticks (about 5 inches long)
- ☐ Sprinkles or icing



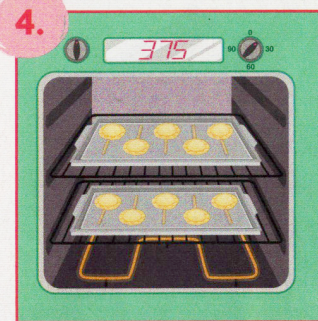
1. Carefully unroll the pie crust on a floured cutting board. Use a cookie cutter or drinking glass to cut out circles from the crust. Make sure you have an even number of circles—each pie pop will need a front and a back.



2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place a pie-crust circle on the paper. Lightly press a food-safe stick into the pie crust. Put a quarter-sized spoonful of filling (or less) in the middle of the circle.



3. Place another pie-crust circle on top of the first. Use your finger to pinch together the edges of the circles. Continue making pops until the baking sheet is full.



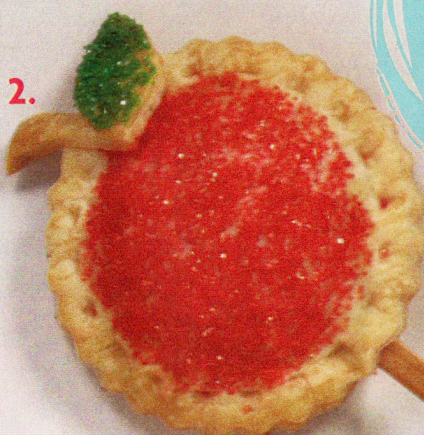
4. Ask an adult to bake the pie pops in a 375-degree oven for 15–20 minutes. Have the adult remove the pops from the oven. Let the pie pops cool on the baking sheet before decorating.

Make decorations out of dough! Before assembling a pie pop, use a small cookie cutter to cut a shape in the top crust. Use the cut shape or leftover pieces of dough to decorate the pop.

1.



2.



4.



3.



1. Creamy Chocolate

- Chocolate-hazelnut spread (for filling)
- Chocolate drizzle
- Candy sprinkles

2. Caramel Apple

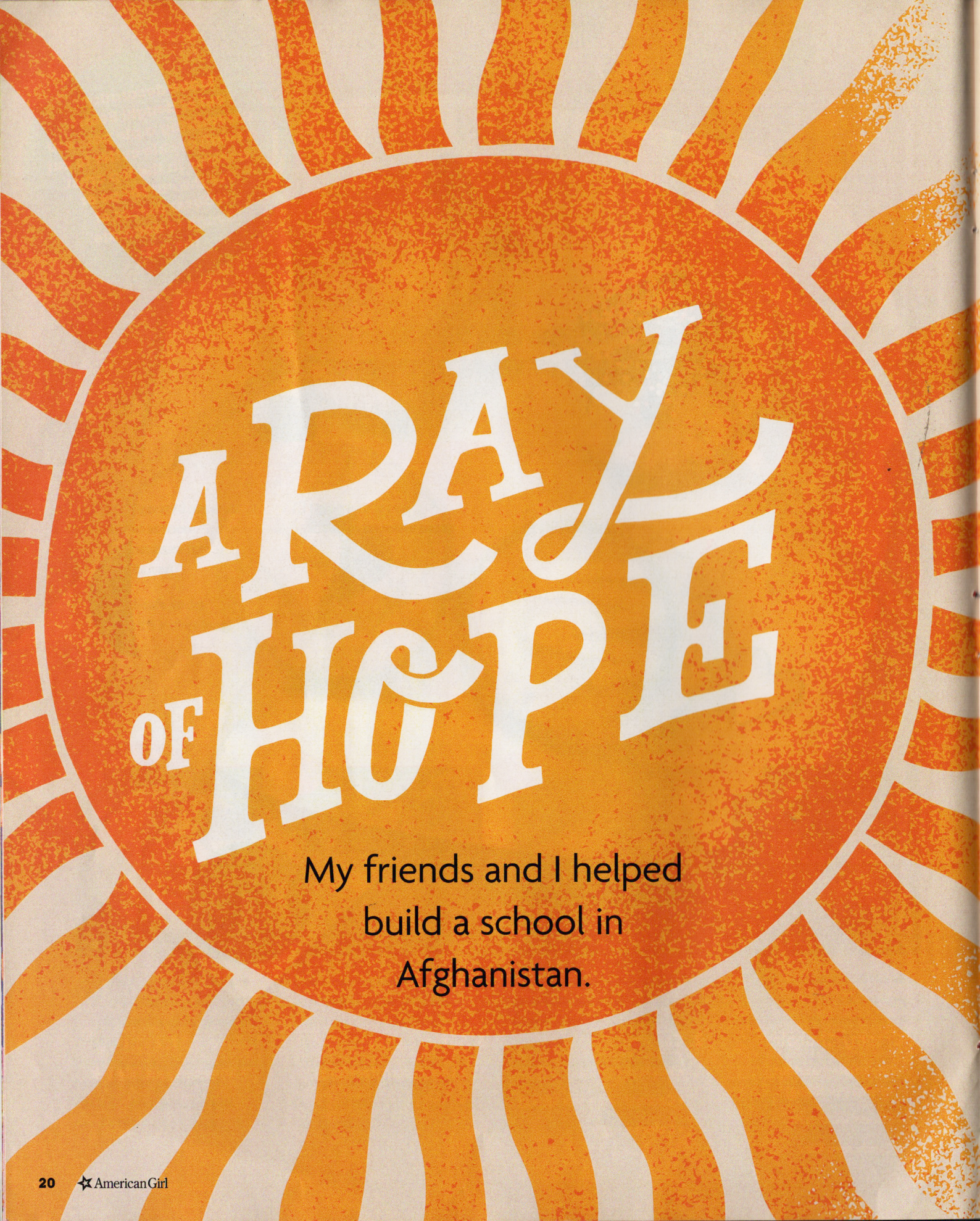
- Apple pie filling
- Caramel sauce (for filling)
- Colored sugar

3. Sunny Lemon

- Lemon curd (for filling)
- Vanilla icing

4. Sweet Strawberry

- Strawberry pie filling ★



ARAY OF HOPE

My friends and I helped
build a school in
Afghanistan.



Razia with
Maxime and
friends



Have you ever met a girl who wasn't allowed to go to school—just because she's a girl? Everyone should have the chance to go to school and learn.

My name is Maxime, and when I was seven years old, I heard about a village in Afghanistan where girls haven't been allowed to go to school for many years. Without school, they don't learn to read or write. But they have dreams just like I do; they want to be doctors and teachers, and they want to learn. Why shouldn't girls get the same chances boys do? Then I heard about a woman named Razia Jan who was helping these girls in Afghanistan by raising money to build them a school. I wanted to help them, too!

I decided that instead of asking for birthday presents that year, I would ask my friends to donate to Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation. That way we could make life a little better for girls by helping them build a school. My friends loved the idea, and so did my family. We raised \$2,000! It was such a great cause, and it felt good to do something to help.

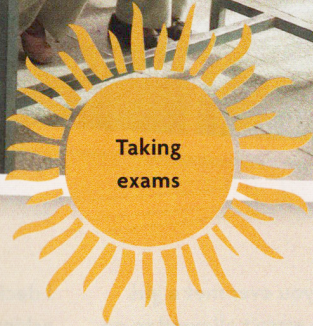
But we wanted to do even more. So, for the last three years, my friends and I have been selling lemonade, making cards, and holding other fundraisers. We've raised more than \$178,000! We also wanted other kids to learn about why this school means so much to us, so we asked Razia to come and speak at our schools.



Fund-raising
with friends



**"IT WAS SUCH A GREAT CAUSE,
AND IT FELT GOOD TO DO
SOMETHING TO HELP."**

Taking
exams



After Razia came to our schools, one class wrote letters to the Afghani girls and made them friendship bracelets. We were so excited when they wrote us back! It makes us super happy that we get to learn about their lives, and they get to learn about ours—and that they get a

chance for a brighter future. But even though more than 600 girls get to go to this school, not everyone wants girls to learn. The school takes safety very seriously, and it monitors the drinking water and makes sure that no one is ever carrying a weapon inside the school.



Time for
recess





"NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU LIVE, EVERY KID SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN AND HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE WHAT THEY WANT TO BE."

But nothing will stop these girls from getting an education. Razia says it's a human right for girls to be educated, and that going to school is key to their future. She also says that when you teach a girl, you teach the whole family. I feel so proud be able to help girls on the other side of the world

go to school, and it makes me feel good to help make the world a better place. No matter who you are or where you live, all kids should be able to learn and have the chance to be what they want to be.



Feeling Frosty?

Ten ideas for staying warm and well this winter.

1.

Screen Time

Feel as if you barely see the sun this time of year? Surprise—you still need sunscreen, even in the winter months. Find a face lotion with sunscreen in it, and apply a light layer every morning.

2.

Lip Tip

Licking chapped lips makes them feel better for a minute, but it actually dries them out more. Keep a soothing lip balm with you wherever you go. Use it all day, and put some on before bed, too.

3.

Cool It Down

Brrr! You know that blast of icy cold you feel when you step out of the shower? It won't be such a shock if you turn the shower water cooler, little by little, as you're finishing up.

4.

Lotion Notion

As soon as you dry off from your shower, slick on some moisturizing lotion right away. Your skin will absorb the lotion better when you're warm and damp, and you'll avoid getting itchy dry skin this winter.

5.

Bye-Bye, Flyaways

Beat winter hair static with this quick trick: Rub a tiny dot of lotion into the palms of your hands—just enough to make them shiny. Then smooth your hands over the ends of your hair. The static disappears instantly.

6.

Shower Power

Cold weather might tempt you to turn up the heat during your shower, but try not to do it—hot water can dry out your skin. Stick to short, warm showers, and your skin will thank you.

7.

Wow Your Wrists

Use scissors to cut the toes off some colorful knee socks. Pull the socks over your hands, and use a pen to mark a spot on each one for your thumb to poke through. Then take off the socks and cut a tiny hole for each thumb. Instant arm warmers! (Always ask a parent for permission before cutting up clothing.)

8.

Winter Warmth

Ask a parent to help you heat a mug of water. Add a few drops of lemon juice and a few drops of honey, and stir until the honey dissolves. Sip to soothe a sore throat—or any time you want to feel warm and wonderful.

9.

Nail Knowledge

You're probably washing your hands a lot to protect yourself from colds and other illnesses. Hello, hangnails! Use hand lotion at least once a day, and focus on coating your cuticles to protect them.

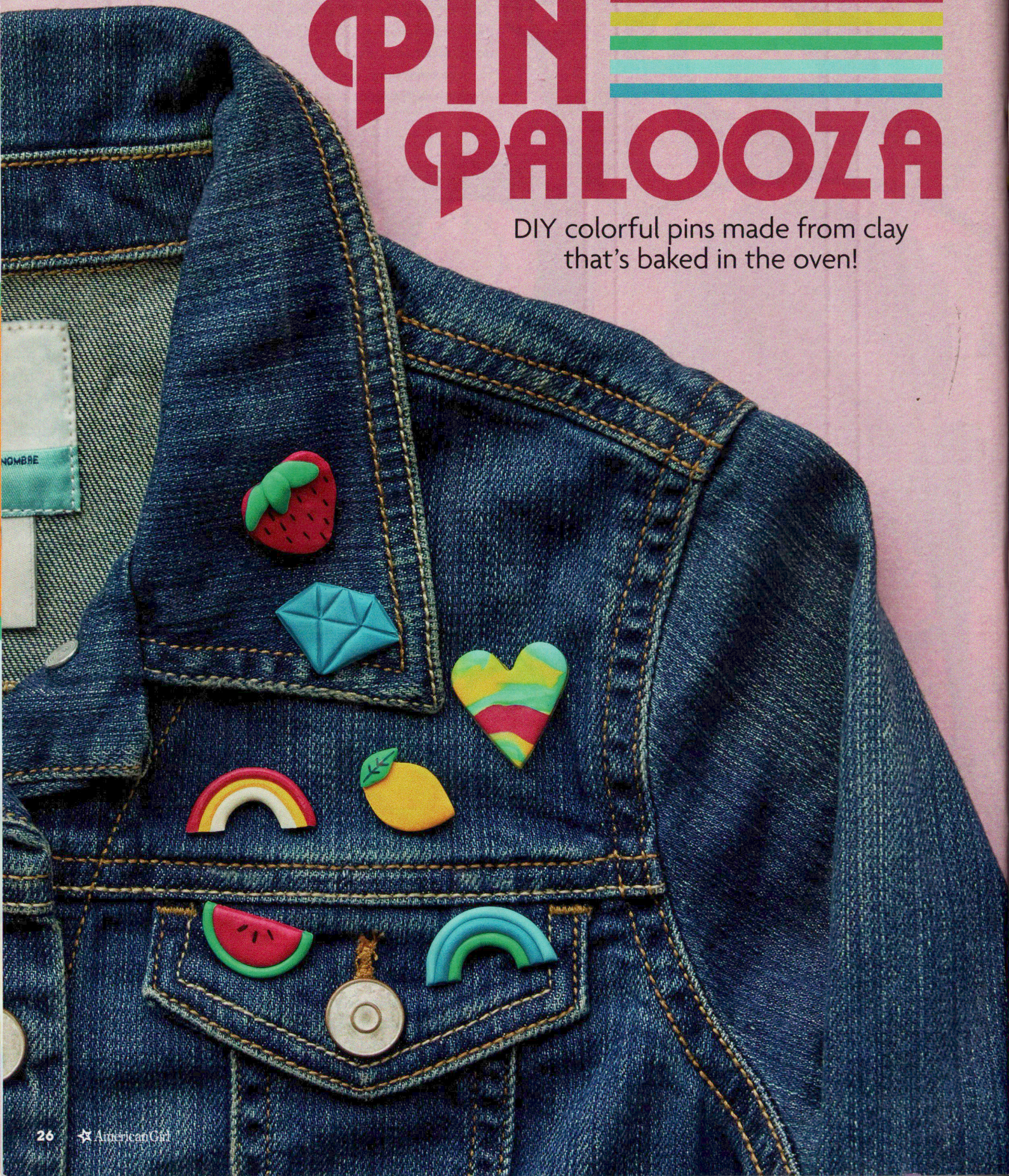
10.

Foot Fleece

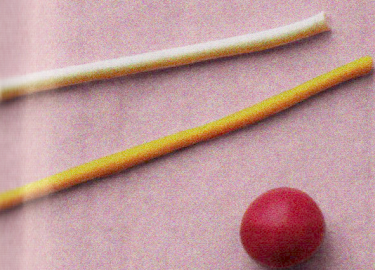
If your feet feel chilly when you crawl into bed, bunch up your warmest winter scarf and place it under the covers. If you tuck your feet loosely into the folds of the scarf, your toes will feel toasty in no time. ★

PIN PALOOZA

DIY colorful pins made from clay that's baked in the oven!



RAINBOW



1. Make three small clay balls in different colors. Roll each ball into a thin rope.



2. Press the three ropes together and bend into a rainbow shape.



3. Use a plastic knife to cut off each end of the rainbow. (You can make more than one rainbow out of each set of clay ropes.)

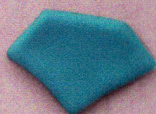


4. Place on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Follow the baking instructions to harden the clay.

GEMSTONE



1. Make a small clay ball and roll it flat using a plastic rolling pin or the side of a plastic cup.



2. Use a plastic knife to cut out a gem shape as shown.

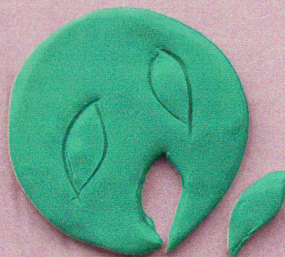


3. Use the knife to make the gemstone's facets as shown. Be sure to press very lightly. Don't cut all the way through the clay.



4. Place on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Follow the baking instructions to harden the clay.

STRAWBERRY



1. Start with a small ball of pink clay and roll it flat with a plastic rolling pin. Repeat with a ball of green clay.

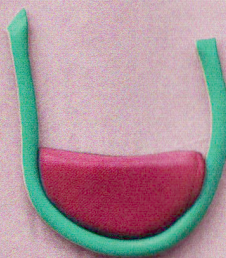
2. Use a plastic knife to cut a strawberry shape from the pink clay. It should look like a heart with a rounded bottom.

3. Use the plastic knife to cut three tiny football shapes from the green clay. These are the leaves. Press the leaves into place at the top of the strawberry.

4. Place on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Follow the baking instructions to harden the clay.

After the strawberry and watermelon shapes have been baked and cooled, draw seeds using a black permanent marker!

WATERMELON



1. Start with a small ball of pink clay and roll it flat with a plastic rolling pin. Use a round object to stamp out a circle shape. (A plastic bottle cap works well.)

2. Use a plastic knife to cut the circle shape in half. Each half will make one watermelon slice.

3. Roll a tiny ball of green clay into a thin rope. Wrap the rope around the curved side of the watermelon shape. Use the plastic knife to trim the ends.

4. Place on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Follow the baking instructions to harden the clay.

LEMON



1. Start with a small ball of yellow clay and roll it flat with a plastic rolling pin. Repeat with a ball of green clay.

2. Use a plastic knife to cut a football shape from the yellow clay.

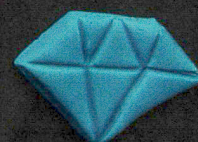
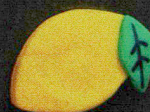


3. Use a plastic knife to cut a much smaller football shape from the green clay. This is the leaf. Gently press the leaf on top of the lemon.

4. Place on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Follow the baking instructions to harden the clay.



Once the pins are baked and cooled, attach pin backs using craft glue. Let the glue set completely before wearing your pins.



CLAY BAKING INSTRUCTIONS



When your clay creations are ready to bake, place them on a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. (Don't let unbaked clay touch surfaces that are used for food.) Ask an adult to follow the baking instructions on the clay package. (The clay pieces shown were baked in a 275-degree oven for 25 minutes.) Ask the adult to remove the clay pieces from the oven when they're finished baking. Don't touch the clay until it's cool. ★

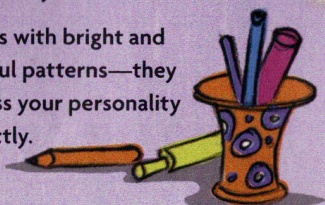
Casting Call

Take this fun quiz to discover which moviemaking job suits you best.



1. At back-to-school time, your favorite new school supplies are ...

- a. planners or organizers—you love keeping your life mapped out.
- b. new pens and lots of fresh paper—you can't wait to start writing.
- c. markers and colored pencils—art class, here you come!
- d. folders with bright and colorful patterns—they express your personality perfectly.



2. Which of these volunteer jobs would you like the most?

- a. Setting up a fund-raiser for your town's library
- b. Starting a letter-writing campaign to help save a nearby park
- c. Sorting through piles of clothing at your community's secondhand store
- d. Singing for the residents of a local nursing home



3. At sleepovers, you love to ...

- a. take photos of your friends having tons of fun.
- b. read all the latest magazines.
- c. have a fashion show, complete with hairstyles and jewelry.
- d. make up dances to songs—the more creative, the better!



4. If you were a bird, you'd be ...

- a. a hummingbird—you have an endless supply of energy!
- b. an eagle—you have an eye for details.
- c. a peacock—you have a great sense of style.
- d. a mockingbird—you do excellent imitations.



5. While working on a group science project about weather, you'd probably ...

- a. take charge, assign each person a task, and make sure that all the jobs get done on time.
- b. work on the written report.
- c. make a full-color diagram of Earth and its weather patterns.
- d. present the project to the class.



6. If you had to help your mom babysit two-year-old twins, you would ...

- a. take the twins to the backyard to play. That way they would be hungry for lunch—and then ready for a nap!
- b. tell the twins a story you made up.
- c. entertain the twins by helping them draw and color.
- d. put on a puppet show, complete with funny voices.



7. In your free time, you can be found ...

- a. playing checkers—you love to come up with good strategies.
- b. doing a crossword puzzle—you have a great vocabulary, and you like to use it.
- c. sketching in a sketchbook—you've always loved to draw.
- d. playing charades—your performances win laughs and the game!



Answers

Mostly a's Directing Diva

You're organized and motivated, and you always seem to see the big picture. Your friends respect you and your ideas, and they don't mind following your lead. You'd make a great movie director.

Mostly b's Word Whiz

Let's face it: You are a totally terrific writer. Your friends love to read your stories, and your favorite school assignments are ones that involve writing. Movies need a wordsmith like you to create the scripts.

Mostly c's Costume Queen

You've got a flair for fashion, so you'd make an excellent costume designer. You're always imaginative, and your great style shows up in everything you create. Fans would adore your original designs.

Mostly d's Acting Ace

You perform all the time, even offstage. You sing or speak in a funny voice whenever you feel like it, and your friends love seeing how you react to things they say. You'd make an awesome actor. ★



Fiction

The Truth Club

Frankie and her friends start a Truth Club,
but is honesty *always* the best policy?

by Kathy Passero



Honesty is the best policy. Parents say it. Teachers say it. Everybody says it. That's why Abby, Hannah, Gilby, and I decided to form a Truth Club. We swore to be 100 percent honest with each other about everything. The four of us had been best friends since kindergarten, so we figured, "What could go wrong?"

Just goes to show what everybody knows.

We founded the Truth Club right before rehearsals started for our school's big fifth-grade musical. It's "big" because Mrs. Euitable, the drama teacher, gives parts to as many kids as possible and also because excitement starts building for the show in early March and doesn't die down until after the production ends in April.

Nobody was more excited than the four of us. We had been waiting to be in the fifth-grade musical practically forever. This year's production was *Alice in Wonderland*, and no one was surprised when Abby got the lead. Abby loves acting. She wants to star in movies when she grows up. She's the reason we started thinking about the musical in the first place. Whenever you go to her house, you choose a costume from the trunk in her attic and act out a movie. Or a book if Hannah's there, because Hannah loves reading as much as Abby loves acting.

Hannah, Gilby, and I got parts playing Wonderland Flowers with four other girls. When Abby/Alice walked onstage, we had to eye her suspiciously and say that she didn't look like a flower, so she couldn't join our garden party. They were small parts, but we got to sing in the opening and closing numbers. And anyway, we were used to supporting roles. We'd been playing them in Abby's attic for years. Abby was always the star, because it was her house and she knew the most about acting.

Even a small role in the musical got you excused from class a half hour early to rehearse every day

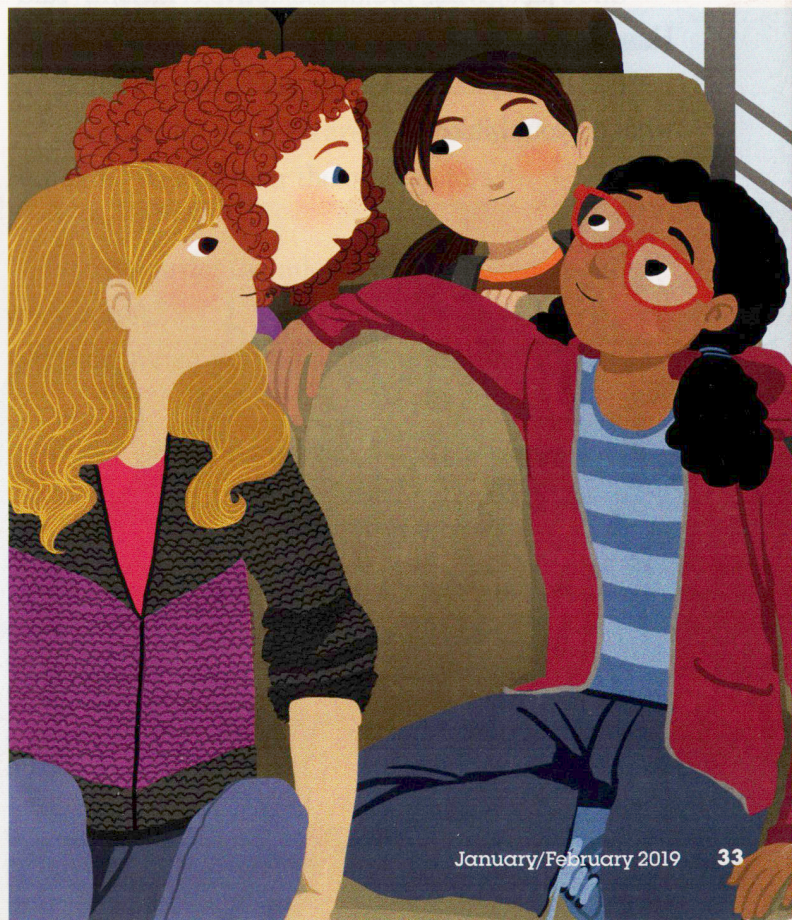
for a month before the show. That's another reason everybody wanted to be in it. Well, almost everybody, as the Truth Club revealed.

Our club met on the bus ride home because it was one of the few times the four of us could talk without getting into trouble for not doing something else, like schoolwork. We had two rules: First, if another member asked you a question, you had to answer honestly. Second, every member had to share one totally honest thing. You started by saying, "The truth is . . ."

"The truth is, I'm worried about being out of class so much," Hannah told us the first week of rehearsals. "What if I miss something important?"

"The musical is important, too," Abby reminded her. "You can study anytime. You get only one chance to do this!"

"Besides, there's no way you'll fall behind," Gilby added. "You're so far ahead, you'll just give everyone else a chance to catch up."



Gilby was right. Hannah is a total brainiac. She usually raises her hand before the teacher even finishes asking a question.

Hannah didn't seem convinced, though. We were supposed to practice our parts in the back of the auditorium when it wasn't our turn onstage, but Hannah did homework or read. Gilby and I alternated between practicing and watching Abby, who was always onstage because she was in every scene. Mrs. Eitable had a lot of what she called "helpful hints" for Abby.

"Slow down, dear," Mrs. Eitable would call out. "Speak clearly. Sing loudly. Remember to face the audience so we can hear you."

"Abby looks really annoyed," Gilby whispered to me.

Sure enough, Mrs. Eitable's helpful hints came up at the Truth Club. "The truth is, this musical isn't turning out to be nearly as much fun as I expected," Abby said. "Mrs. Eitable is always picking on me."

"She's just giving you constructive criticism," said Hannah.

"But I am speaking loudly and clearly. Frankie, what do you think?"

"We were at the back of the auditorium today, and we couldn't hear you either," I told her.

I was just being honest, but Abby looked hurt. Her house is closest to the bus stop, and when we all got off, she barely said good-bye. We watched Abby disappear behind her front door, and then Gilby turned to us. "I've got a great idea!" She wanted to make a huge poster that read "Abby as Alice rocks!" to tape up at the back of the auditorium.

Hannah and I spent Saturday afternoon helping Gilby on the poster. Gilby drew all these incredible scenes of Wonderland around the words. Then we painted the poster with bright colors and put glitter over the wet paint. Monday at rehearsal we surprised Abby with it. "When you see this, you'll remember the people in the back rows who need to hear you, too," Gilby explained.

Abby beamed. "Thanks, you guys!"

Mrs. Eitable walked over just as we were putting the poster up. *Oh, no*, I thought. *She's going to tell us it won't be fair to the other actors if Abby gets a special sign.* But instead she asked, "Did you draw all this?"

She was so impressed that she put Gilby in charge of set design. Gilby drew enormous versions of all



the crazy flowers, mushrooms, and butterflies from our sign on rolls of heavy brown paper, and the rest of the cast cut them out or painted them in when it wasn't their turn to rehearse. Ms. Straw, the art teacher, would help us turn the pictures into backdrops later.

When Gilby was surrounded by paint and brushes, you couldn't wipe the smile off her face. But the moment she set foot onstage, she froze. She stood there like a baby deer in a truck's

 "Now you guys are picking on me too!" Abby cried. 

headlights, staring blankly at Abby's poster on the back wall. I whispered her lines to her, but she sounded like a robot reciting them.

"The truth is, I wish I'd never let you guys talk me into this," Gilby confessed at the Truth Club. "I'm awful at acting."

"You were always good at it when we made up plays," I pointed out.

"That was different. Nobody could see me except you three."

"You've got stage fright," Abby said. "Don't worry. It'll go away before the show."

But it didn't. It got worse. "I keep imagining all those seats full of people," Gilby moaned. "Do you know how many people could be watching us?"

"Four hundred," said Hannah. "I counted. Ten seats on each side of the aisle times twenty rows."

"You're not helping!" Gilby wailed. "What was I thinking? I can't do this!"

"You promised," Hannah said to her. "If I have to be in the musical, you have to."

"What do you mean 'have to'?" I asked. "Don't you want to?"

"I just mean we promised to stick together," Hannah muttered.

I suspected Hannah was breaking the Truth Club's number one rule. I thought the truth was that she also didn't want to be in the musical. She spent every spare minute in the back of the auditorium, supposedly helping Gilby but secretly studying. The sets were almost finished anyway, and they looked amazing. Now Gilby was starting on props, working with Ms. Straw to design giant cardboard teacups

and croquet mallets that looked like flamingos. They had more than enough people eager to help, and I could recite my lines in my sleep, so I watched whoever happened to be onstage and listened to Mrs. Eitable's endless helpful hints for Abby.

"The truth is, Mrs. Eitable is impossible to please," Abby complained at the Truth Club. "It's not my fault the school's microphones are ancient."

"I don't think the mics are the problem," said Hannah. "We can hear the other actors."

"You can?"

"You're harder to understand," I explained. "Your voice is soft."

"Now you guys are picking on me too!" Abby cried.

"We're just trying to help," Hannah assured her.

"You want to know the truth, don't you?" I asked. "Otherwise, how can you get better?"

"Keep working—you'll get there," Gilby said.

"Easy for you to say," Abby muttered. "You don't know what it's like being in every scene."

"But the truth is, it's what you wanted," Hannah reminded her.

Gilby took a deep breath. "Speaking of the truth, Mrs. Evidable thinks I'd be better off just working on sets and costumes and . . . um . . . that's what I'm going to do."

"You're dropping out of the musical?" asked Hannah, dumbfounded.

"I'll still be involved, just not onstage. Frankie knows my lines better than I do anyway. She can say them."

"But it won't be the same! We were supposed to be in the show together!" cried Abby.

"What difference does it make? I'm hardly in it anyway. The other Flowers will probably be happy. They'll get more lines, and I'll stop messing everybody up."

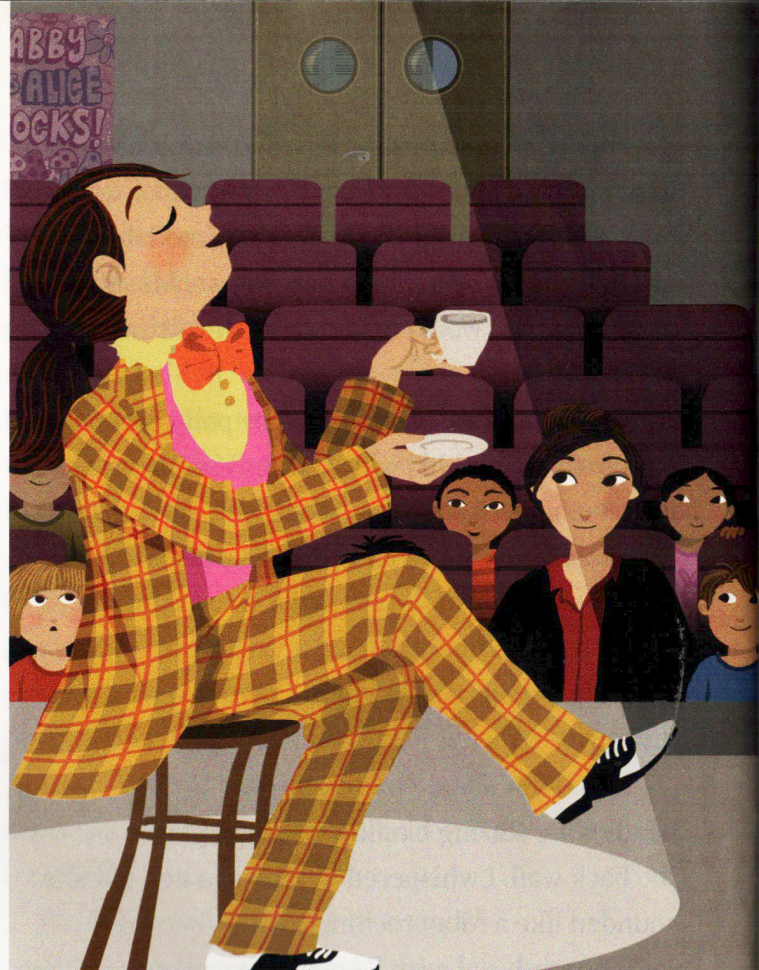
"But . . ." Abby began.

"Gilby's right," Hannah said firmly. "The truth is, she likes art. Not acting. She should do what she wants." Then she hesitated. "I'm going to talk to Mrs. Evidable about quitting too."

"WHAT?" Abby shouted.

"Look, acting's not my thing either. And I hate missing class. You can fill me in on everything that happens in rehearsals."

Abby slumped down in her seat. "I can't believe it. We said we'd do this together, and you guys are all abandoning me."



Mrs. Evidable was very understanding when Hannah and Gilby dropped out of the cast. I had a hunch that she included lots of kids because she knew a few would quit. And, just as Gilby predicted, the other Flowers were thrilled to have more lines. At first they forgot them, but I helped whenever anyone needed a prompt.

✿ "I can't believe it. We said we'd do this together, and you guys are all abandoning me." ✿

"I'm not abandoning you," I said. "I'm still in the play."

"But it's not what we planned."

I did the same for other characters. It turned out I'd accidentally memorized almost everybody's lines while I was watching them rehearse.

Then an amazing thing happened. The girl playing the Mad Hatter was absent, and Mrs. Evitable called me over. "I'm guessing you know her lines, don't you, Frankie?" she asked, smiling at me. "Would you like to give it a try?"

I remembered to speak slowly, sing loudly, and face the audience. It was easy after hearing Mrs. Evitable say it so often. Afterward, she made me the official understudy, which meant if anybody missed rehearsal, I would play that person's part! The only bad thing was that I kept secretly hoping people would catch the flu. When the Mad Hatter got tonsillitis and had to drop out, I was afraid I'd made it happen. I sent her a get-well card so I wouldn't feel as guilty about taking over her part.

The kindergartners came to watch one of my first rehearsals as the Mad Hatter, and they cracked up during my scenes. I loved it! Hearing all that laughter from the audience made me feel as if I were floating. Some other kids complimented me, too, and on the bus ride home Gilby told Hannah, "Frankie's incredible as the Mad Hatter! Even Mrs. Evitable thinks so."

I was still glowing from the drama teacher's praise. "Notice how Frankie uses body language and mannerisms?" she asked the cast. "That helps the audience understand her character even when she's not speaking."

"I had no idea this musical would be so much fun!" I told my friends on the bus. Then, since this was the Truth Club, I shared something I'd been thinking a lot lately. "The truth is, I might want to be an actor when I grow up."

"You really should be!" Gilby said. "You're great at acting."

"But being an actor is my idea!" Abby burst out loudly.

"I know," I said, surprised. "Why can't we both

do it? There are a lot of actors in the world."

"But it was my idea first!" Abby said. "Ever since you got the Mad Hatter part, it's like you're taking it over!"

Hannah frowned. "I don't understand," she said. "You were upset when Gilby and I dropped out of the musical. Now you're upset that Frankie likes it?"

Abby looked ready to cry. "No. It's just . . ." she stammered. "It's easy for you, Frankie. You just have a few little scenes. I have a lot more pressure on me."

"But that's what you wanted," we reminded her.

"I know," she sighed.

"Maybe Frankie can help," Gilby suggested. "She's got loads of good ideas."

"I'd love to," I said eagerly. The truth was, I'd been wondering what would have happened if I had tried out for the lead. I could think of a bunch of things I would have changed. I gave Abby helpful hints all week, but she didn't want to hear them.



"You're still talking too fast in the scenes where you're supposed to be angry or nervous," I told her. "Maybe you should try—"

"Mrs. Evitable didn't say anything about that," Abby interrupted.

"That's because the show's in a few days. She's got a lot on her mind," I said. "But Gilby said she noticed it, too."

"It would help if you spoke a little slower," Gilby agreed.

"Stop criticizing me!" Abby said, her cheeks reddening. "You're always telling me what I'm doing wrong!"

"We're just being honest," I assured her. "The truth is—"

"The truth is, this role is going to your head," Abby snapped. "You act like you're the teacher. You don't know any more about acting than I do!"

I felt like she had slapped me. Too stunned and hurt to answer, I glared out the bus window, fighting back tears. In the seat ahead of me, Abby did the same. Out of the corner of my eye I could see Hannah and Gilby shooting glances at each other, trying to figure out how to smooth things over.

That's when it dawned on me that honesty wasn't always the best policy. I bet most people probably didn't tell each other every honest thing that popped into their heads, because it's just as easy to hurt someone's feelings when you tell the truth as it is when you lie.

I couldn't get Abby's words out of my head. She and I avoided each other whenever we didn't have to be onstage together, and we didn't speak on the bus. The Truth Club was history. Maybe the friendship, too.

Hannah and Gilby seemed afraid to bring up what had happened, but they went out of their way to be nice to both of us. With Ms. Straw's help,

Gilby made Abby an adorable stuffed cat to hold during the opening scene, and she made me a cool Mad Hatter's hat with polka-dot ribbons.

I was still angry, but I refused to let Abby ruin the musical for me. Our first performance was Friday evening at six, and my whole family would be there. I couldn't concentrate on anything all day. Eight hours until the show . . . five hours . . . two hours! Hannah had agreed to help Gilby and Ms. Straw with last-minute costume and set details, so all four of us were backstage at the auditorium by five o'clock. Abby and I were on opposite sides of the crowded, noisy dressing room.

I put on my makeup, ran through my lines one last time, and got into my costume. Suddenly I realized my hat was missing. I dug frantically through the boxes of props and ran among cast members, asking, "Have you seen my hat?" They were all hurrying to get ready. No one had time to help me. The curtain would go up in twenty minutes,



and the most important part of my costume had vanished!

I caught sight of Abby standing in front of a mirror, adjusting her blond Alice wig. She glanced at me nervously, and then looked away. *I'll bet she took it*, I thought. I stomped over with my hands on my hips.

"Where's my hat?" I demanded.

She gazed at me, wide-eyed and pale under her makeup. Judging from her expression, she was realizing that stage fright doesn't always go away before a show.

"How am I supposed to be the Mad Hatter with no hat?" I shouted. "You hid it!"

"What are you talking about? I didn't hide your stupid hat!"

Just then, Gilby and Hannah hurried into the dressing room. Hannah was holding my giant top hat while Gilby made adjustments to it. They stopped when they saw Abby and me shouting.

"Frankie, I'm sorry," Gilby said. "I took your hat. I wanted to add these." She pointed to a border of neon pom-poms around the brim.

I could see my reflection in the mirror behind Abby. In my oversize plaid suit and my orange bow tie, scowling and yelling, I looked as crazy as the Mad Hatter. Talk about getting into character.

That's when it hit me: Abby was right. I'd let a few compliments inflate my ego to the size of that enormous hat. And I hadn't been supporting my friend when she needed encouragement most.

"You guys," said Hannah. "You're putting way too much into this musical."

"I know. I'm sorry!" I told Abby.

"I'm sorry!" she answered. "I was being selfish. I'm just stressed because I'm terrible as Alice."

"I was being selfish," I said. "And you're not terrible. You're really talented!"

"You were both being selfish," Hannah said with



a smile. "And you're both really talented!"

"Now, will you just hug it out?" asked Gilby, glancing at her watch. "You've got five minutes until the show starts!"

Abby and I wrapped our arms around each other. It felt wonderful to be surrounded by my BFFs again. Here we were, backstage at the fifth-grade musical at last. It wasn't exactly how we'd imagined it, but we were together. And the truth is, that was all that mattered. ★



Meet the Author

Kathy Passero



About age 10



Now

I made my first—and *last*—appearance in an elementary school musical when I played a spotted rabbit. Like Gilby, I soon realized that I was far better suited for the audience than for the stage!

This or That

Sleepover edition!

Would you rather ...



have a sleepover with
a big group

OR

one best friend?

be the first one to fall asleep

OR

be the last one awake?

snack on popcorn

OR

s'mores?

play board games for hours

OR

watch a movie marathon?

bring along your teddy bear

OR

your favorite book?

play charades

OR

have a sing-along?

tell your friends that
you need a night-light

OR

show them your
favorite blankie?

stay up late telling secrets

OR

telling jokes?

dine on take-out pizza

OR

make your own meal?

dream about winning
a million dollars

OR

dream about winning
a talent show?

eat eggs and bacon
for breakfast

OR

have a cereal buffet
breakfast?

forget to bring
your sleeping bag

OR

your pajamas?

spend the night in a library

OR

at your school?

have your friends
hear you snore

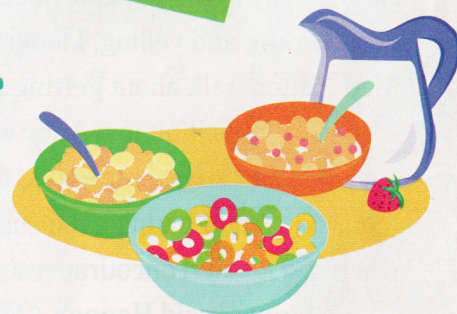
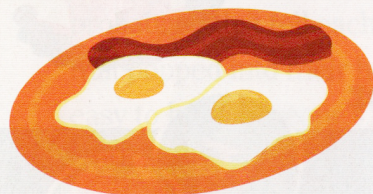
OR

talk in
your sleep?

sleep on the couch

OR

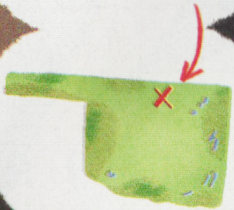
in a sleeping bag?



WHO'S THAT GIRL?

I WAS BORN ON
JANUARY 24, 1925, IN
FAIRFAX, OKLAHOMA.

I WAS A MEMBER OF THE OSAGE
NATION. GROWING UP, MY FAMILY
LIVED IN A BIG BRICK HOUSE ON
THE OSAGE RESERVATION.



WHEN I WAS EIGHT, MY FAMILY
MOVED TO CALIFORNIA. MY
MOTHER WANTED MY SISTER
AND ME TO BECOME STARS IN
HOLLYWOOD MUSICALS.

AFTER ARRIVING IN
CALIFORNIA I STUDIED BALLET,
TAP, ACROBATICS, AND
SPANISH DANCING.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
BANNED TRADITIONAL OSAGE
CEREMONIES SO THE CEREMONIES
WERE HELD IN SECRET. I SOMETIMES
ATTENDED THEM WITH MY FATHER
AND GRANDMOTHER. THERE WAS A
LOT OF MUSIC AND DANCING.

MY MOTHER SIGNED
ME UP FOR BALLET AND
PIANO LESSONS WHEN I
WAS THREE YEARS OLD!



I DREAMED OF
BEING A CONCERT
PIANIST.



TURN THE PAGE TO DISCOVER WHO I AM!

SHE'S...
**MARIA
TALLCHIEF**
PRIMA BALLERINA

After years of studying ballet and going to school, Maria Tallchief wanted to attend college. Instead, when she graduated from high school in 1942, her father told her that it was time for her to get a job. Soon afterward, Maria did just that: she was hired to dance in a movie musical featuring Hollywood star Judy Garland! Being a movie extra was exciting, but it made Maria realize she didn't want to earn her living by dancing in movies. Her heart was in ballet, and she dreamed of being onstage.

One day, Maria's mother surprised her with some news: A family friend, dancer and choreographer Tatiana Riabouchinska, had offered to take Maria to New York for the summer. New York City was home to some of the best professional ballet companies in the country. If Maria went to New York, she could audition for them. At only 17 years old, she decided to travel across the country to pursue her dreams of dance.

Shortly after she arrived in New York, Maria was chosen to be a member of an important ballet company. People in the company asked Maria to change her last name to one that sounded Russian. (This was a common practice at the time because Russian ballerinas were seen as the greatest in the world.) Up until that point, she had been Elizabeth Marie Tall Chief (everyone knew her as "Betty Marie"). But Maria was proud of her family name. Instead, she used a variation of her middle name and changed the spelling of her last name, becoming Maria Tallchief.

Over the next few years, Maria performed in many ballets, earning larger and larger roles. She was also becoming more famous. Newspapers wrote about her strength, speed, and energy. In 1946, she joined the New York City Ballet, where she became prima ballerina! She was the first American dancer to ever have the title. Maria went on to dance with the New York City Ballet as prima ballerina for the next 18 years, performing in theaters around the world. (She was also the first American ballerina to dance with the Paris Opera Ballet!)

In 1953, Maria was honored by the Osage Nation when she was given the name Wa-Xthe-Thomba. It means "woman of two worlds" and celebrates her accomplishments as both a prima ballerina and Native American. ★





FIND YOUR SUPERPOWER



HOP
to it!



Photo: iStock.com/ytyoung

 American Girl®

Copyright © 2019 American Girl. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

I take my siblings' stuff!



Dear American Girl,

I have a bad habit of taking things that I want from my siblings, and I feel guilty about it. I don't know how to give their things back without them getting upset.

guilty

Taking your siblings' things without permission is never OK. And it's understandable that they are upset when you give their stuff back. Apologize sincerely and promise to not do it again. Often in families, it's all right to borrow items that you need, but first talk with your siblings and decide how your family will handle lending things to each other. Then make three lists: things that are OK to borrow without asking, things that are "please ask first," and things that are always off-limits. If you can agree on these lists, then everyone gets what she or he needs, and no one will feel guilty or upset.

Dear American Girl,

I have two close friends, but they don't get along well because they both have strong opinions. How can I get them to be friends?

strong opinions

Fighting friends can make it hard to hang out together. Instead of having fun, you're stuck in the middle. To keep the group together, talk to your friends about how their opposing opinions make you feel. Tell them that you don't like being in the middle of their disagreements. Also, avoid talking about topics that lead to arguments. Just because two people can't see eye to eye doesn't mean they must be enemies. In fact, they probably have more in common than they think. If they still can't keep the peace together, hang out with them each separately. It's a bummer you can't be a bunch, but at least your one-on-one time together will be more enjoyable.

Advice from You

Dear American Girl,

I have trouble waking up each morning. My mom will wake me up, and I'll tell her I'm awake, but then I fall asleep again. How can I stay awake in the morning?

Way too sleepy

You could ask your mom to hand you a cold washcloth to rub on your face. That should wake you up!

-nicole

Think of three things that you are looking forward to that day when your mom wakes you up. Then you will be excited to get up for the day.

-Jami

As soon as your mom wakes you up, try sitting up, stretching, and giving her a big hug to get out of bed.

-Anna

Something that works for me is getting out of bed the moment my mom wakes me up. If I don't let myself linger in bed, I'm not tempted to close my eyes again.

-carina

One solution is that every time you get up right away, you can put a marble in a jar. When the jar is full, you can treat yourself to something special.

-ella

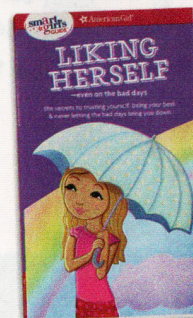
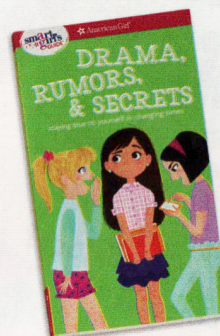
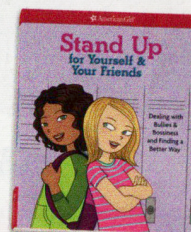
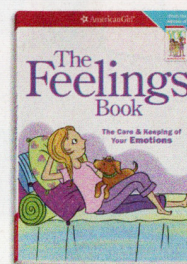
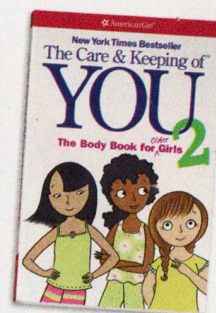
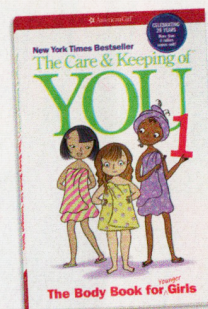
Get an alarm clock but keep it far away from your bed. When the alarm rings, you'll have to get out of bed to turn it off.

-stella

Try going to bed earlier. I was tired in the morning, too, until I figured out that I needed more sleep. I feel a lot better now.

-Lauren

Need more help?
Check out these books full of great advice!



BEHIND THE SCENES



Abby and Tsage had so much fun together on our babysitting photo shoot. Even though Abby had never babysat before, she was a pro with Tsage and kept her giggling the whole time. They even had a dance party!

Q&A with ABBY

Grade in school?
Sixth

Favorite subject?
Language arts

Fun fact?
I'm on a cheer team
as a "flyer"—the person
lifted up during a stunt!

Q&A with TSAGE

Grade in school?
Kindergarten

Favorite part of school?
Playing restaurant with
a miniature kitchen
and cash register

Fun fact?
I love riding my bike!



ADVERTISEMENT

CREATE *your* OWN

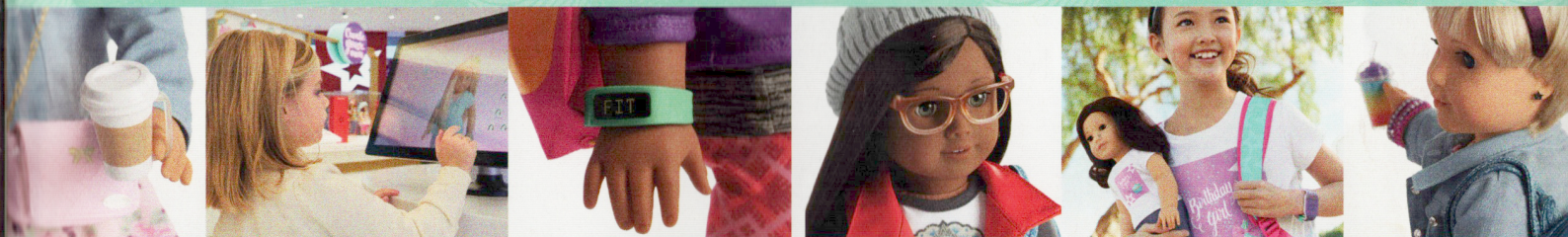


Get CREATIVE
with over a million
combinations

CREATE THE ONE OF A KIND* DOLL OF YOUR DREAMS!

Choose her *hairstyle*, her *outfit*, and even her *personality*. Does she have curly hair? Does she love puppies? Is she a sports star? It's all up to YOU!

*More than 1.3 million combinations



BEFORE YOUR DESIGN...

DESIGN YOUR OWN DOLL FASHIONS (and looks for you, too!)

Add patterns, graphics, and words
to tees, backpacks, and more.

PLAY TODAY AT:

americangirl.com/create-your-own.



...AND AFTER!

Must be at least 18 years of age to complete purchase online.
Products and Create Your Own online tool recommended for ages 8 and up.

©/™ 2018 American Girl



Just in time for
Valentine's

Show your friends they're
extra special with the craft
on page 3!

American
★
Girl

CHASE
more
SUNSETS

AG'S WINTER STICKERS



★ American Girl®

Copyright © 2019 American Girl.
All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.



Illustrations: Stacy Peterson